

Amendments to the Claims: Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any canceled claims at a later date.

1.-36. (canceled)

37. (new) A method for controlling a connection in a packet-oriented communication network, wherein the network comprises a first network zone (NZA) with a first signaling control device (GKA) and a first terminal (EPA), a second network zone (NZB) with a second signaling control device (GKB) and a second terminal (EPB), a first data communication channel (RTP1) transmitting user data from the first to the second terminal, and a second data communication channel (RTP2) transmitting user data from the second to the first terminal, wherein the first and second user data channels form a peer-to-peer communication relationship between the first and second terminals, the method comprising:

the first signaling control device sending a first terminal capability set message (TCS0) with an empty capability set to one of the first or second terminals, prompting said one terminal to close the data communication channel transmitting therefrom;

said one terminal sending a channel closure message (CLC) transparently via the first and second signaling control devices to the other of the first and second terminals, prompting said other terminal to close the data communication channel transmitting from said one terminal;

said other terminal sending a channel closure first confirmation message (CLCAck) transparently via the first and second signaling control devices to said one terminal;

the first terminal sending an information request response message (IRR) as a channel closure confirmation second message to the first signaling control device;

as a result of receiving the information request response, the first signaling control device transmitting a second terminal capability set message with a non-empty capability set to said one terminal, prompting said one terminal to open a new data communication channel.

38. (new) The method of claim 37 comprising:

the first signaling control device sending a first terminal capability set message (TCS0) with an empty capability set to the first terminal, prompting the first terminal to close the first data communication channel;

the first signaling control device sending a channel closure first confirmation request message (IRQ) containing a report-transmit-channels-closed information element to the first terminal;

the first terminal sending a channel closure message (CLC) transparently via the first and second signaling control devices to the second terminal, prompting the second terminal to close the first user data communication channel;

the second terminal sending a channel closure first confirmation message (CLCAck) transparently via the first and second signaling control devices to the first terminal;

as a result of receiving the channel closure first confirmation message, the first terminal sending an information request response message (IRR) as a channel closure confirmation second message to the first signaling control device;

as a result of receiving the information request response, the first signaling control device transmitting a second terminal capability set message (TCSB) with a non-empty capability set to the first terminal, prompting the first terminal to open a new data communication channel.

39. (new) The method of claim 38, further comprising:

as a result of receiving the second terminal capability set message (TSCB), the first terminal transmitting a channel opening message (OLC) to the second terminal or to a third terminal;

as a result of receiving the channel opening message, the second terminal or the third terminal opening a new peer-to-peer user data channel to the first terminal, and transmitting a channel opening confirmation message (OLCAck) to the first terminal.

40. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein a channel closure confirmation request message is transmitted from the first signaling control device to the second terminal or the third terminal after the new data channel is opened, prompting the second terminal or the third terminal to confirm to the first signaling control device any closure of the new peer-to-peer user data channel for the duration of the new peer-to-peer user data channel.

41. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein a channel closure second confirmation request message is transmitted from the first signaling control device to the second terminal or the third terminal after a registration of the second terminal or the third terminal with the first signaling control device, prompting the second terminal or the third terminal to confirm to the first signaling control device any closure of the new peer-to-peer user data channel for the duration of the registration.

42. (new) The method according to Claim 38, wherein a generic message, extended to include a specific confirmation request information element, is transmitted as the channel closure first confirmation request message.

43. (new) The method according to Claim 38, wherein a generic message, extended to include a specific confirmation information element, is transmitted as the channel closure first confirmation message.

44. (new) The method according to Claim 38, wherein the communication network is set up according to the ITU-T recommendation H.323.

45. (new) The method according to Claim 38, wherein a terminal capability set message according to the ITU-T recommendation H.245 with an empty capability set is transmitted as the first terminal capability set message (TCS0).

46. (new) The method according to Claim 38, wherein the confirmation request message and/or the confirmation message are each configured as a RAS (Registration, Admission and Status) message according to the ITU-T recommendation H.225.0.

47. (new) The method according to Claim 38, wherein the communication network is set up according to the IETF standard SIP (Session Initiation Protocol).

48. (new) The method according to Claim 38, wherein it is specified by the channel closure first confirmation request message whether a successful closure of a user data transmission channel and/or whether a successful closure of a user data receiving channel should be confirmed.

49. (new) The method according to Claim 38, wherein it is specified by the channel closure first confirmation message whether a successfully closed user data channel is a user data transmission channel or a user data receiving channel.

50. (new) The method of claim 37, comprising:

the first signaling control device sending a first terminal capability set message (TCS0) with an empty capability set to the second terminal via the second signaling control device, prompting the second terminal to close the second data communication channel;

the first signaling control device sending a closure confirmation request message (IRQ) containing a report-receive-channels-closed information element to the first terminal;

as a result of receiving the first terminal capability set message, the second terminal sending a channel closure message (CLC) transparently via the first and second signaling control devices to the first terminal, prompting the first terminal to close the second user data communication channel;

the first terminal sending a channel closure first confirmation message (CLCAck) transparently via the first and second signaling control devices to the second terminal;

the first terminal sending an information request response message (IRR) as a channel closure confirmation second message to the first signaling control device;

the first signaling control device, as a result of receiving the information request response, transmitting a second terminal capability set message (TCSA) with a non-empty capability set to the second terminal via the second signaling control device, prompting the second terminal to open a new data communication channel.

51. (new) The method of claim 50, further comprising:

as a result of receiving the second terminal capability set message (TSCB), the second terminal transmitting a channel opening message (OLC) to the first terminal or to a third terminal;

as a result of receiving the channel opening message, the first terminal or the third terminal opening a new peer-to-peer user data channel to the second terminal, and transmitting a channel opening confirmation message (OLCAck) to the second terminal.